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intention, if possible, to pursue this and to do some things that would expand our community-based programs to the point that we could close a regional center. It's a very serious goal that I will have and will bring it up next year. And with that, I would like to withdraw the amendment.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: It's withdrawn.

CLERK: Mr. President, I have nothing further pending to the committee amendments at this time.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: We are now debating the adoption of the committee amendments. Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I wanted to make some comments before we voted on that last issue of Senator Redfield's but the question was called before I got to do that. And there is some other people who wanted to make those comments as well. I just wanted to...to talk a little bit about some of the things I think are going on. We have, of course, in this state two very different and distinct economies. And the economy that prevails in our Legislature is one of a great deal more optimism I think than prevails in rural Nebraska. The economy that I represent is really pretty dismal, and when we come here and are asked to increase taxes, it is just like another blow to the people I represent. We are sitting here in a position today, and we will do it tomorrow as well, to pass some legislation that will increase our taxes. I feel a little bit uncomfortable about the way the process works, and I don't know that I can't change that, but sitting on Revenue Committee, I see us playing keep-up all the time. The Appropriations Committee does the cutting and then we are supposed to come along with the tax increases. They come before...before we do, so we have to go back and clean up after they've been here. Our process is that way. We have to do our bills next. And I know we'll have an opportunity to make changes as we go through there but the change that Senator Redfield tried to make, and she had very strong support for it, didn't succeed. I'm...I'm a real mugwumper on this situation. My mug is on one side of the fence, my "wump" is on the other side, and I have...I'd like to be able to be more determined